

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 18 through line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

JP57-110314A, JP-U59-47310A, and ~~JP-U55-155742A~~JP-A-55-155742 disclose a honeycomb structure and the like including a low-cell-density region and a high-cell-density region.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 4 through line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

JP-U60-145216A discloses a “catalytic converter in which cells having a trapezoidal cross-sectional shape are provided in a state in which the open area of each cell is increased stepwise from the center section toward the outer circumference”, JP-U62-163697A discloses a “honeycomb structure in which triangular cells formed by providing a partition wall which connects opposite angles of a square cell are provided near the outer circumference of the honeycomb structure”, and ~~USP3853465~~USP3853485 discloses a “honeycomb structure in which the number of partition walls provided between two opposite sides of an octagonal cell is increased stepwise from the outer circumferential section toward the center section of the honeycomb structure”.